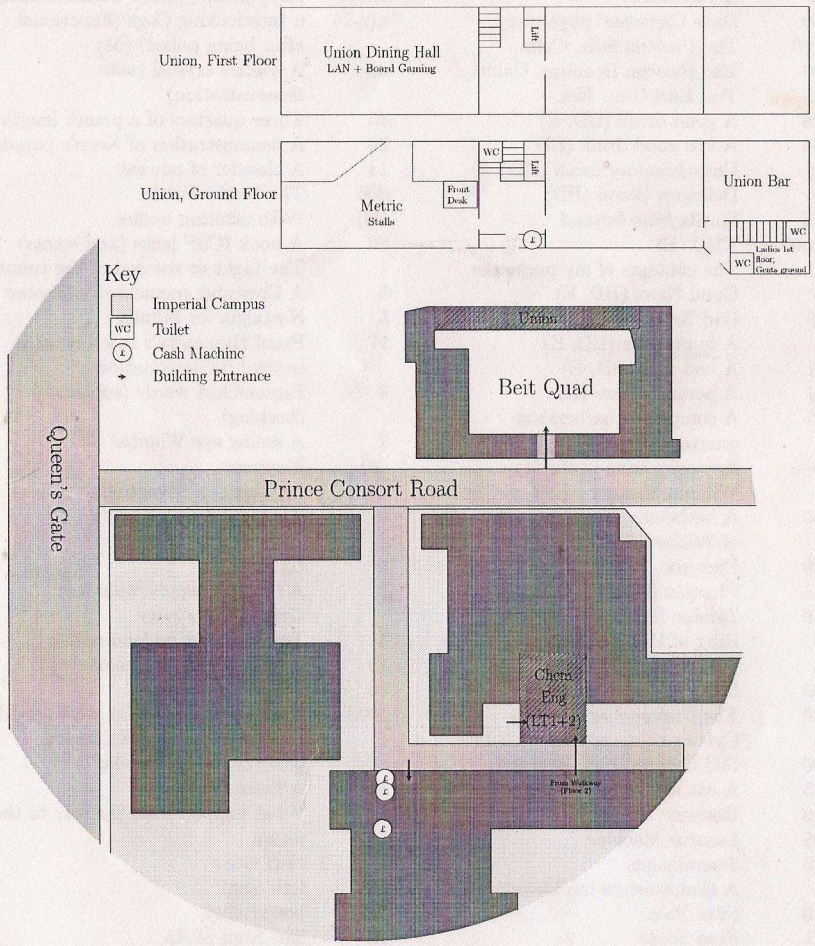
Map



2013

Picocon 30

"Resurrection"

Wyrmtongue

Back Once Again

The Chair Entity Speaks

One would like to welcome you all to Picocon 2013 on behalf of the Science Fiction and Fantasy society - one believes this to be the largest Picocon Imperial has ever held. This should be a particuarly exciting one with authors Peter F Hamilton, Kate Griffin, Richard Morgan, and Stephanie Swainston. Special Credit should go to Maciej Matuszewski: Picocon "Sofa", whipping post, and Jack of all trades for the effort he has put in and for his spectacular organisation. This is the earliest organised Picocon in my time at Imperial, with even the authors chosen well ahead of schedule. With no further ado I would like to welcome you once again and finally to Picocon 2013.

The Sofa's Speech

Hello, and welcome to Picocon 30, the latest in the long run of Imperial College Science Fiction and Fantasy conventions. As Picocon Sofa it has been my privilege this year to take charge of the convention preparations and I can promise you that the programme this year is one of the best we've ever had.

This being (by some counts) our thirtieth anniversary, we have decided to run the first ever two day Picocon. Therefore, along with old favourites such as silly games and the destruction of dodgy merchandise, we have a whole host of new events for your enjoyment. Saturday will see different universities' science fiction societies face off against each other in a two round, genre themed *University Challenge* style quiz. Sunday will give budding writers a change to polish their skills with two drop-in Writer's Workshop sessions. We will begin to round off the day with the *Tall Technical Tales* panel, where scientists present their own amusing real-life anecdotes from the lab.

The Guests of Honour this year are some of the best we've ever had - Peter F. Hamilton, Kate Griffin, Richard Morgan, and Steph Swainston. Each will be giving their own individual talk and will be taking part in the main GoH panel on Saturday evening. Alongside the Guests of Honour, however, we also have over a dozen external speakers - including Ian Whates, Juliet McKenna, Pat Cadigan and Professor Edward James - who will be taking part in a number of fascinating panel discussions over the two days.

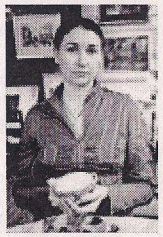
While at Picocon you might also like to visit one of our many retailer stalls or take part in our LAN gaming tournament and one-shot tabletop RPGs. You can find a map of the convention site and a full convention timetable further along in these pages. Picocon has something for everyone and whether you are a newcomer or a long time attendee I sincerely hope that you will enjoy your weekend at our convention.

Guests of Honour

Richard Morgan

Richard Morgan taught English and travelled the world after graduating university, before becoming a full time writer to write dystopian (is there any other kind) cyberpunk. Mystery and war also cross into his novels, and comics fans may know him for his work on *Black Widow*. Find out more about him at `www.richardkmorgan.com`

Stephanie Swainston



Stephanie Swainston has a history in archaeology, bookshops, medicine, farming and defence. She incorporates this broad range of experience into her novels, which feature an alternate progression of technology. T-shirts and swords! Posted on her blog at `www.stephswainston.co.uk` is some unpublished material, including poetry.

Kate Griffin

Kate Griffin is the pen name used by the twice Carnegie-nominated fantasy author Catherine Webb for her adult fiction. A lifelong Londoner she is best known for her urban fantasy *Matthew Swift* series of novels which reimagines the city as a centre of hidden magical power. She blogs at `www.kategriffin.net` so why not check out her essay writing.

Peter F Hamilton

Peter Hamilton is a bestselling author of epic space operas. His works include elements of hard SF, fantasy, and classic horror writing to weave complex and intertwining stories. He blogs at `www.peterfhamilton.co.uk`
Peter Hamilton will only be attending on the 16th

Schedule — Saturday 16th

This year the venue for our talks has moved from the Physics Department's Blackett building to Lecture Theatres 1 and 2 in the Chemical Engineering Department's **ACEX** Building (LT1 & LT2). All the convention locations are shown on the map on the last page of this booklet and are clearly signposted. If you require any further help, please feel free to ask a convention volunteer.

There will be several roleplaying games run in the union, for experienced and totally new roleplayers alike. Please sign up for them at the front desk. If you return to the front desk five minutes before the advertised time the GM will take you down to East Basement Meeting Rooms for the game.

10:00	Doors Open	
10:30	Stephanie Swainston Talk	LT1
11:30	Peter F. Hamilton Talk	LT1
12:30	First rounds of University Challenge style quiz	LT1 & LT2
13:00	Lunch, Destruction Of Dodgy Merchandise	Beit Quad
14:00	Guest of Honour Panel	LT1
15:00	Write Fantastic Panel: "Post Humanity in SF"	LT1
16:00	Silly Games	LT1
17:00	Write Fantastic Panel: "Life after Death in SF"	LT1
18:00	University Challenge style quiz final	LT1 & LT2

On The Side

12:30–15:00	Co-operative Games, including *Pandemic*, *Space Cadets* ...	Union Dining Hall
12:30	*Legends of Anglerre*: City Watch: RPG set in the big city where everything will go wrong around you.	Beit East Basement
13:30 & 17:00	*Unknown Armies*: Mind the Gap: RPG involving mysticism, messiahs and Chicken McNuggets.	Beit East Basement
15:00–19:00	War Games, including *Eclipse*, *Game of Thrones*, *Shogun*	Union Dining Hall
17:30	*Putting the Band Back Together*: RPG based around a band reforming for a tour	Beit East Basement

Schedule — Sunday 17th

Even if you are only attending on Sunday please be sure to glance at the text on the previous page, which concerns both days.

10:00	Doors Open	
10:30	Richard Morgan Talk	LT1
11:30	Kate Griffin Talk	LT1
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	Fans, Editors and Writers Panel	LT1
14:30	Picocon of Years Gone by Panel	LT1
	Write Fantastic Workshop: "Short Stories"	Beit East Basement
15:30	Tall Technical Tales - amusing real life anecdotes from the lab	LT1
	Write Fantastic Workshop: "Making Every Word Count"	Beit East Basement
16:30	Turkey Readings	LT1
17:00	Harmless Fun (Definitely not a fish duel)	Beit Quad
17:30	Pub Quiz	Metric

On The Side

10:30–13:30	Bluffing games, including *Coup*, *Wereworlf*, ...	Union Dining Hall
11:30	*Lady Blackbird*: RPG set abord a smuggler's skyship	Beit East Basement
11:30	*Putting the Band Back Together*: RPG based around a band reforming for a tour	Beit East Basement
14:00	*Legends of Anglerre*: City Watch: RPG set in the big city where everything will go wrong around you.	Beit East Basement
13:30–17:00	European games, including *Puerto Rico*, *Tzol'kin* ...	Union Dining Hall
16:00	*Zombie Fiasco*: RPG set in a zombie apocolypse	Beit East Basement

Quest Objectives

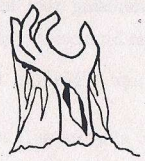
On your way in, you should have been assigned to one of three teams - Reapers, Zombies or Phoenixes (or is that Phoenices?*) - and given a sticky badge to wear with newfound pride. If somehow you slipped through the net, or misplaced your badge, then go and *politely* berate the receptionists until they give you one.

"Now," you might think, "if only there were some way for me to prove my worth ... to win glory and ultimately victory for my team!" Fear not! Your newly aquired fervour need not go unfulfilled! At the front desk you will find a list of dangerous, and often impossible, missions set by those pen-pushing bigwigs at Picocon Command, who can edit these articles and make me so sorry for insulting them. Complete any of these missions, bring the evidence back to the front desk, and win fabulous prizes ... in the form of points for your team. Whichever team ends up with the most points will be declared the finest, the greatest, and most importantly the winners!

Now go *for great justice.*

This year's teams are:

The Phoenixes - make sure you don't burn out too easily



The Zombies - how will you solve the clues with rotting brains?

The Reapers - too scary to joke about

These items can be submitted to the Front Desk for House Points (after 11am). Pictures are not (generally) admissible; objectives involving people must only be undertaken with the other person's permission. The front desk reserves the right to keep the submitted items. Each house may claim an item only once, unless otherwise noted.

BD	Benedict's (Front Desk Guy) Discretion†
E	This item may be claimed multiple times per house ("each")
M	For each house, the highest of their scores will be used

1	Little Green Pygmy Solders (E)
10	House hat from any House other than your own
1	Hugs (Per person)
30	Picocon
20	A non-ICSF fresher at Picocon
Age +5	Ex-ICSF Chair (M)
Age +5	Ex-ICSF Librarian (M)
Age +5	T-shirts from Picocons past (M)
10	Previous Guest of Honour (E)

* No, it is not: Phoenixes is correct.

† This actually applies to everything; where it is noted, it indicates that you're unlikely to change my mind with your cunning arguments.

10	Half of one (1) Dave
20	The Mabbott set
8	A Phylactery
80	Dave Clements' phylactery
100	The Picocon Sofa, Calm
50	The Picocon Beanbag, Calm
15	Tea, Earl Grey, Hot
25	A good drink (BD, E)
10	A less good drink (BD)
-5	Unsatisfactory drink (BD)
5	Delicious Blood (BD)
15	Spirits from beyond
1000	£100 (E)
7	The contents of my pocketses
5	Good News (BD, E)
-5	Bad News (BD, E)
1	A funny joke (BD, E)
-1	A bad pun (BD, E)
-1	A portmanturse (E)
25	A competent barbershop quartet (BD)
5	Any song sung in the style of William Shatner
50	A barbershop quartet in the style of William Shatner
20	Phoenix
15	Phoenix Down
10	Zombie (E)
5	Ring of Regeneration
8	Ring of Jumping +5
20	Defibrillator
30	The Philosopher's Stone
5	Cyborg components
50	Full Cyberisation (working)
15	A cat with more than one life
10	Horcrux
25	Lazarus Machine
10	Sarcophagus
5	A Frankenstein-ian Monster
10	First Post
-5	First Score
5	Origami
8	A Non-Euclidean Triangle
5	Tribble
60	Tribble (Functional)
5	A Nanosecond
3	A good hat
5	A correctly fitted top hat
50	Happiness, $\geq$ 0.1M Concentration
n(n-1)	n Interlocking Cogs (Functional after being poked) (M)
30	A control crystal (with demonstration)
40	Three quarters of a planck length
20	A demonstration of Xeno's paradox
14	A clowder of one cat
400	The World Turtle
800	With orbiting bodies
50	A book ICSF lacks (and wants)
1	The Light at the end of the tunnel
5	A Crowning moment of awesome
5	Nostalgia for Infinity
17	Proof Humanity's reach extends beyond its imagination
3	Famous last words (subject to checking)
7	A seeing eye Wombat
-20	Elephant
-1	Anything irrelevent (E)
-5	Anything irrelephant (E)
3	Cleopatra in Space
3	Galaxy
2	A practical application for General Relativity
4	Transcendent understanding
10	A point in the complex plane
30	4 Unitless Sergeis
1000	Time machine (points were awarded 15th Feb 6pm, ICSF Library, password is "Chewsday")
10	A Swan
5	What happened on the way to the forum
4	Nerf Guns
10	Lab Stuff
-50	per fatality
10	The Staff of Ra
3	Observable Brownian Motion
5	A fluffy dragon
7	A plasma generator
5	Ion cannon (demonstrated)

Good Luck!

You're likely to need it...